



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
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COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Special Education Directors
FROM: Linda Copas, Director of Behavior/Autism Services
DATE: June 2, 2008
RE: Summer Institute on ABA

From **July 15-18, 2008**, a **Summer Institute** focusing on Applied Behavior Analysis will be held in Nashville at Vanderbilt University. This four-day ABA Summer Institute is presented by staff from TRIAD at Vanderbilt and sponsored by the Division of Special Education. It is open to two, four-person teams from each grand region of Tennessee (24 participants in all). Each team will concentrate on developing a program for a student with autism in their school, and will receive a follow-up site visit later in the year. The team needs to bring information about the student's IEP, behavior plan, cognitive functioning, etc. Teams can consist of teachers, parents, paraprofessionals, SLPs, psychologists, and any other school personnel who provide direct service to the child with autism.

The Institute will consist of a combination of lectures, videotape demonstrations, and hands-on learning experiences to teach the methodologies of discrete trial training, structured teaching, and incidental teaching. During the first three days, trainers will provide an overview of ABA and specifics about the components, teaching sequences, and phases of discrete trial training, structured teaching, and incidental teaching. On the fourth day, participants will learn about integrating the different methodologies and will practice their implementation including making various visual supports for their specific student.

There is no cost to participants for tuition, but the costs for lodging, transportation, and food must be provided by participants or their school systems. This year, schools that send a team to the Summer Institute and who also have a principal participate in the Administrators Academy, may apply for the TRIAD Mentoring Program, which provides extended consultation and technical assistance for a professional leadership plan within the school.

Schools or supervisors interested in applying should contact Linda Copas, 615-741-7790, or e-mail her at Linda.Copas@state.tn.us for an application. **Return of the application does not mean automatic acceptance.** Please fill out the application completely and carefully. The deadline for applying is June 27, 2008.

Remember, this is a team application. **Individuals without a team will not be considered.** Each team will need to have approval from the LEA Special Education Director to apply.

Linda W. Copas
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